CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX

Estimated* Child Opportunity Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2023

"The Child Opportunity Index (COI) measures and maps the quality of resources and conditions that matter for children's healthy development in the neighborhoods where they live."[1] The COI is a composite index comprised of three domains: education, health and environment, and social and economic. The education domain includes the following subdomains: early childhood education, elementary education, secondary and post-secondary education, and educational resources. The health and environment domain includes the following subdomains: pollution, healthy environments, safety-related resources, and health resources. The social and economic domain includes the following subdomains: employment, economic resources, concentrated socioeconomic inequity, housing resources, social resources, and wealth. The COI helps identify disparities in neighborhood conditions experienced by children. The levels of COI include very low, low, moderate, high, and very high (scores ranging from 0-100). The estimated COI values for the subregional areas were calculated based on aggregating nationally normed census tract level data. Nationally normed data were obtained at the census tract level.[2] The estimated COI by subregional area (SRA) shows the variation in levels of child opportunity (see *Figure 1*) and allows identification of communities with lower child opportunity.

Figure 1: Estimated* Child Opportunity Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2023
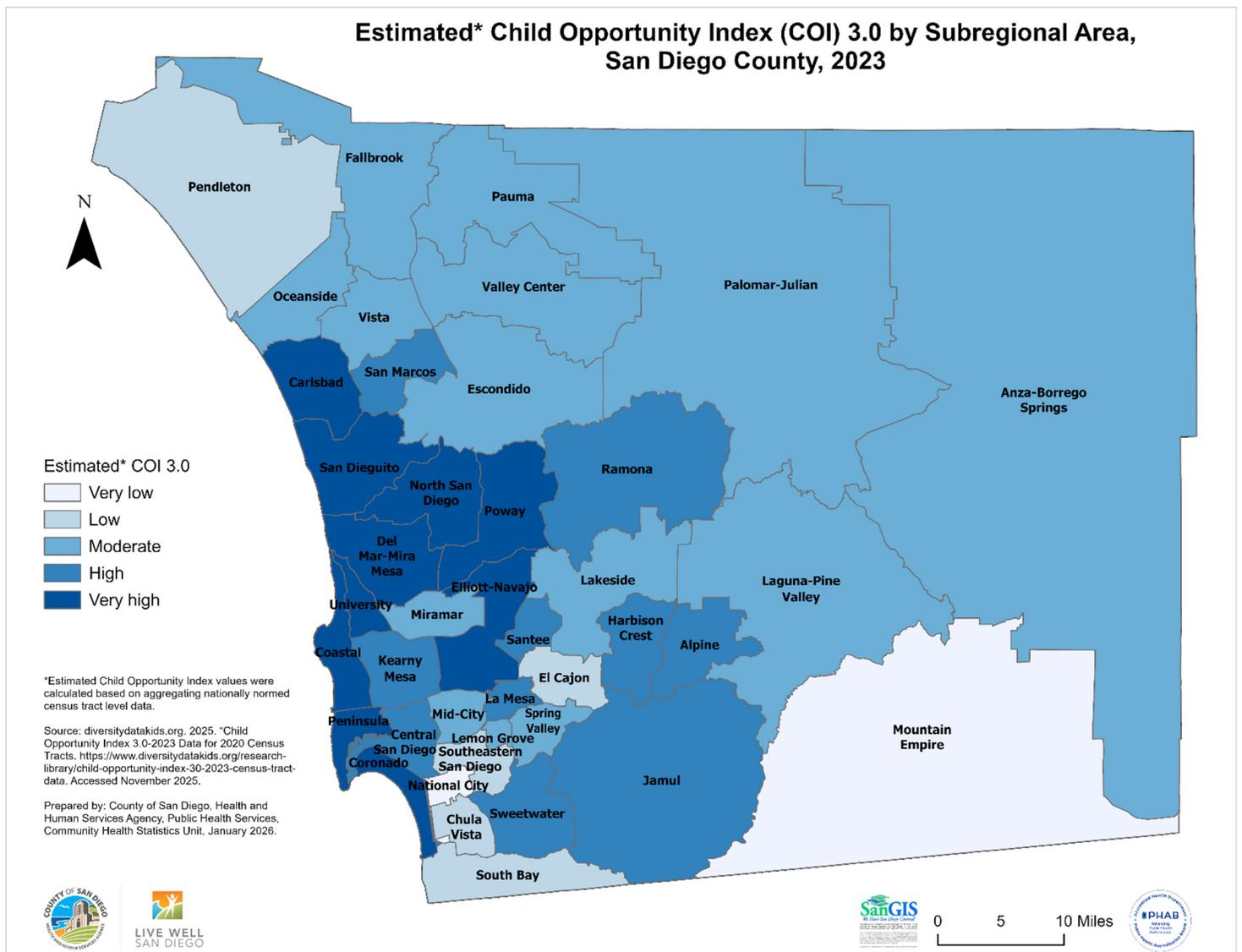

Estimated* Child Opportunity Index (COI) 3.0 by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2023

Estimated* COI 3.0
- Very low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very high

*Estimated Child Opportunity Index values were calculated based on aggregating nationally normed census tract level data.

Source: diversitydatakids.org. 2025. "Child Opportunity Index 3.0-2023 Data for 2020 Census Tracts. https://www.diversitydatakids.org/research-library/child-opportunity-index-30-2023-census-tract-data. Accessed November 2025.

Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, January 2026.

Table 1: Estimated* Child Opportunity Index (COI) 3.0 by Subregional Area (SRA), San Diego County, 2023

Subregional Area (SRA)	Region	COI score	COI level
National City	South	17.5	Very low
Mountain Empire	East	19.5	Very low
Chula Vista	South	31.9	Low
Pendelton	North Coastal	36.0	Low
South Bay	South	36.9	Low
El Cajon	East	37.4	Low
Southeastern San Diego	Central	37.9	Low
Vista	North Coastal	42.5	Moderate
Mid-City	Central	42.8	Moderate
Palomar-Julian	North Inland	43.5	Moderate
Anza-Borrego Springs	North Inland	44.5	Moderate
Lemon Grove	East	44.6	Moderate
Escondido	North Inland	49.5	Moderate
Laguna-Pine Valley	East	50.0	Moderate
Pauma	North Inland	50.0	Moderate
Oceanside	North Coastal	51.1	Moderate
Miramar	North Central	54.0	Moderate
Lakeside	East	54.9	Moderate
Spring Valley	East	55.1	Moderate
Valley Center	North Inland	58.0	Moderate
Fallbrook	North Inland	58.5	Moderate
Ramona	North Inland	63.1	High
San Marcos	North Inland	64.5	High
Harbison Crest	East	65.0	High
Central San Diego	Central	67.5	High
La Mesa	East	67.6	High
Santee	East	70.6	High
Alpine	East	71.7	High
Jamul	East	74.3	High
Kearny Mesa	North Central	76.4	High
Sweetwater	South	79.8	High
Peninsula	North Central	82.3	Very high
Elliott-Navajo	North Central	82.5	Very high
Carlsbad	North Coastal	86.4	Very high
Coronado	South	87.6	Very high
University	North Central	90.1	Very high
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	North Central	91.0	Very high
Poway	North Inland	91.6	Very high
North San Diego	North Inland	92.4	Very high
Coastal	North Central	93.2	Very high
San Dieguito	North Coastal	95.3	Very high

In 2023, **National City SRA** (South Region) had the **lowest child opportunity index** compared to all other SRAs in San Diego County.

In 2023, **3 out of 5 subregional areas with the lowest child opportunity were** in South Region in San Diego County.

In 2023, **San Dieguito SRA** (North Coastal Region) had the **highest child opportunity index** compared to all other SRAs in San Diego County.

*Estimated Child Opportunity Index values were calculated based on aggregating nationally normed census tract level data.
Source: diversitydatakids.org. 2025. Child Opportunity Index 3.0-2023 Data for 2020 Census Tracts. https://www.diversitydatakids.org/research-library/child-opportunity-index-30-2023-census-tract-data. Accessed November 2025.
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References

1. Noelke, C., McArdle, N., DeVoe, B., Leonardos, M., Lu, Y., Ressler, R.W., & Acevedo-Garcia, D. (2025). Child Opportunity Index 3.0 Technical Documentation (July 24, 2025). diversitydatakids.org. Boston University.
2. https://www.diversitydatakids.org/ 2025. Child Opportunity Index 3.0-2023 Data for 2020 Census Tracts. Accessed November 2025. https://www.diversitydatakids.org/research-library/child-opportunity-index/child-opportunity-index-30-2023-census-tract-data